

DAILY BULLETIN

DECEMBER 23, 2004

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CREW OF THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION WAIT FOR HOLIDAY DELIVERY

Russian ship Progress will bring food, water, gifts on December 25

The crew of the International Space Station will get a special delivery on December 25 as the Russian cargo spacecraft Progress docks with the station.

According to a December 21 NASA press release, the ship will bring almost 2,300 kilograms of supplies, including food, water, fuel, spare equipment and Christmas presents to Expedition 10 Commander Leroy Chiao and Flight Engineer Salizhan Sharipov.

Progress is scheduled to dock with the International Space Station about 7:05 p.m. Eastern Standard Time (12:05 a.m. Greenwich Mean Time on December 26). The docking will be carried live on NASA TV.

Chiao and Sharipov are a third of the way through a six-month stay to conduct research aboard the complex. Such research helps people learn how to live and work for long periods in space.

Information about NASA TV is available at <http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>

Information about the Expedition 10 crew is available <http://spaceflight.nasa.gov>

Text of the NASA press release follows:

NASA

December 21, 2004

Space Station Visible Over Most of U.S. During Holidays

Santa will have company in the sky over most of the United States this holiday season. The International Space Station is visible in the early morning, flying by at five miles a second. Information about how, when and where to see it is available on the Internet at: <http://www.jsc.nasa.gov/iss sightings> All sightings available from U.S. cities during the holidays are pre-dawn sightings. The Station is not expected to be visible in the evenings.

The 200-ton plus Station, which is more than 170 feet long and 240 feet wide, will be visible from most continental U.S. cities, as well as Juneau, Alaska, on various days between Christmas Eve and New Year's Day. The Station's crew, Expedition 10 Commander Leroy Chiao and Flight Engineer Salizhan Sharipov, will celebrate the holidays aboard the orbiting research complex this year.

Chiao and Sharipov will get a special delivery on Dec. 25 as a Russian cargo spacecraft docks with the Station. The cargo ship will bring 5,000 pounds of supplies, including food, water, fuel, spare equipment and Christmas presents from home.

For those areas with opportunities to view the Station on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day mornings, the Progress cargo spacecraft also may be visible as it closes in on the Station. The Progress is scheduled to dock with the International Space Station about 7:05 p.m. EST. The docking will be carried live on NASA TV. Holiday greetings from the Station crew, video of Mission Control's season's greetings and footage of Mission Control tracking Santa Claus also are airing daily on NASA TV.

NASA TV is available on the Web and via satellite in the continental U.S. on AMC-6, Transponder 9C, C-Band, at 72 degrees west longitude. The frequency is 3880.0 MHz. Polarization is vertical, and audio is monaural at 6.80 MHz. In Alaska and Hawaii, NASA TV is available on AMC-7, Transponder 18C, C-Band, at 137 degrees west longitude. The frequency is 4060.0 MHz. Polarization is vertical, and audio is monaural at 6.80 MHz.

For information about NASA TV and to view it on the Internet, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov/ntv>

Chiao and Sharipov are a third of the way through a six-month stay conducting research aboard the complex. Research aboard the Station helps people learn how to live and work for long periods in space. That information is a crucial step in realizing the Vision for Space Exploration, which in the years ahead will return humans to the moon and see them journey to Mars and beyond.

For more information about the Expedition 10 crew, visit:

<http://spaceflight.nasa.gov/>

For more information about NASA and other agency programs on the Web, visit:

<http://www.nasa.gov>

POWELL LOOKS BACK ON U.S. FOREIGN POLICY SUCCESSES, PROBLEMS

Secretary calls relations with China, India, Pakistan, Russia positive

Washington -- President Bush is "a leader in the truest sense of the word," according to outgoing Secretary of State Colin Powell.

The president sees challenges and does not walk away from them, Powell told journalists at a December 21 luncheon hosted by the Christian Science Monitor. He said Bush has a "toughness in his makeup and in his approach to problems" that he has demonstrated often. Powell predicted the president will continue to show that toughness in the next four years.

Asked what he considered the most important thing he had learned as secretary, Powell said it was the important role free trade and economic issues play in diplomacy and international affairs. He said he spent a great deal of time on these issues because there are so many "fledgling, fragile democracies" that, during his last tour in government, had either been Soviet satellites or were behind "little junta curtains." He said some of these new democratic leaders have told him their re-election depends on improving the lives of their people.

This brought Powell to a discussion of how important much low-profile work to strengthen fledgling democracies is and will continue to be. He gave as one example

the Millennium Challenge Account, which provides U.S. aid to governments that commit to free-market reforms and transparency in government, along with anti-corruption reforms. He pointed to the U.S. creation of a \$15-billion program to combat HIV/AIDS internationally as another.

Asked to evaluate the seriousness of Pakistani A.Q. Khan's proliferation activities, Powell responded that Khan was a very serious serial proliferator for many years, and was dangerous because at least part of his motivation was mercenary. He said he called Pakistani President Pervez Musharraf in January and warned him that the United States had extensive evidence of Khan's proliferation activities and would shortly publicize it. "The next thing we knew, A.Q. Khan had been put in custody," he said.

Another questioner asked Powell if the United States should be engaged in direct or indirect talks with the leaders of the insurgency in Iraq. "We will not talk with leaders of the insurgency," he answered. "They're terrorists, they're murderers, and they have no interest in a free, fair election or democratic participation in such elections, or they wouldn't be doing what they're doing."

On the other hand, Powell cautioned against thinking that the January 30, 2005, elections in Iraq would end the insurgency. "Those who are determined to defeat the forces of democracy are not going to stop just because there was an election," he said. If the election engenders a significant turnout of Sunni Islam voters, Powell said, it would be good for the country and for the democratization process.

Powell said he looks back on a number of successful efforts during his tenure at the State Department. He included U.S. relations with China, India, Pakistan and Russia among them, specifically mentioning the Moscow Treaty with Russia (reached in May 2002) to reduce nuclear weapons even further, as well as the U.S. role in working through the 2002 crisis between India and Pakistan. NATO expansion from 19 to 26 countries was also a success, he said.

"I'm proud to have been part of an administration that did get rid of two very bad regimes and pulling the world together in the war on terror, proud of what we've done with development assistance, HIV/AIDS, denuclearizing Libya, expansion of NATO, expansion of the European Union, the trade agreements we've entered into, what we

did to stop a war in India-Pakistan, a lot of things like that," he said.

The transcript of Powell's remarks is available on the Internet at:
<http://www.state.gov/secretary/rm/39999.htm>

U.S. SUPPORTS INITIATIVES TO INVESTIGATE VIOLENCE IN EAST TIMOR

Indonesia-East Timor effort needs coordination,
U.N. plan, State Dept. says
By Susan Krause
Washington File Staff Writer

The United States strongly supports two initiatives -- one by the United Nations, and another by the governments of Indonesia and East Timor -- to investigate violence that broke out when East Timor voted for independence from Indonesia in 1999, according to State Department spokesman Richard Boucher.

Boucher told reporters in a regular press briefing December 22 that Secretary of State Colin Powell had met with Indonesian Foreign Minister Hassan Wirajuda and East Timorese Foreign Minister Jose Ramos-Horta that morning.

"The principal focus of discussion ... was the way in which to follow up and make sure that we find the truth and reach closure on the crimes against humanity that occurred in 1999," Boucher said.

In response to concerns raised by the U.N. Security Council in November, Secretary-General Kofi Annan proposed a plan to send a team of independent experts to Indonesia and East Timor to evaluate the accountability process.

Wirajuda and Ramos-Horta unveiled a second plan in a meeting with Annan on December 21. The two foreign ministers announced the formation of a joint "Commission on Truth and Friendship." Indonesia's newly elected president, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono, and East Timor President Xanana Gusmao agreed to create the commission when they met in Bali, Indonesia, December 14.

Asked if the joint commission would render the U.N. plan redundant, Boucher said, "We certainly think both initiatives are valuable. We've supported the commission of experts and continue to, and we agree that we need to coordinate their efforts."

U.S. AGENCIES TO AWARD \$15 MILLION FOR BIOMASS PROJECTS

Grants are intended to support President Bush's renewable energy plan

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of Energy (DOE) announced December 21 that up to \$15 million in grants is available to support President Bush's plan to develop renewable energy and expand biomass economic prospects and environmental benefits.

According to a USDA press release, the grants are available through the Biomass Research and Development Initiative to carry out research, development and demonstrations on biobased products, bioenergy, biofuels, biopower and related processes.

Biomass can be any organic matter, including trees, agricultural food and feed crop wastes, wood and wood wastes, aquatic plants, grasses, fibers, animal wastes, municipal wastes and other waste materials.

Eligible applicants include private-sector entities, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, national laboratories, federal and state research agencies and consortiums consisting of two or more of these entities.

Information on energy and agriculture is available at <http://www.usda.gov/energy>

Text of the USDA press release follows:
December 21, 2004

USDA and DoE Announce up to \$15 Million in Grants for Biomass Research and Development Projects

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21, 2004 -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture and U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

today announced the availability of up to \$15 million in grants to support President Bush's energy plan to develop renewable energy and expand the economic prospects and environmental benefits of biomass.

"Our nation can benefit greatly from the conversion of biomass into biobased products, fuels and energy," Agriculture Secretary Ann M. Veneman said. "Biomass use strengthens rural economies, decreases America's dependence on foreign energy supplies, reduces air and water pollution and reduces greenhouse gas emissions. These grants will help fund important research projects."

Through the Biomass Research and Development Initiative, these grants are available to eligible entities to carry out research, development and demonstrations on biobased products, bioenergy, biofuels, biopower and related processes.

The USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, on behalf of USDA and DOE, is requesting proposals for biomass research, development and demonstration projects. The solicitation package (USDA-GRANTS-67-3A75-5-22) was posted on the federal funding opportunities website at <http://www.fedgrants.gov/> on Dec. 17, 2004, and in more detail at <http://www.bioproducts-bioenergy.gov>.

Pre-applications for this joint solicitation must be submitted by Feb. 15, 2005, to USDA-NRCS, Management Services Division, P.O. Box 2890, Washington DC 20013-2890, Attn: Sheila Leonard. Approximately 400 applications were submitted for this solicitation in both fiscal years 2003 and 2004.

Eligible applicants include private sector entities, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, national laboratories, federal and state research agencies and consortiums consisting of two or more of these entities. Grants will be awarded competitively based on technical merit and program priorities identified in the solicitation package.

For this solicitation, a minimum nonfederal share of 20 percent of the total project cost is required. The federal share of each grant is expected to range from \$250,000 to \$2 million, with the work proposed to be completed within a three-year timeframe.